



How to Become a Certified Wastewater Treatment and/or Collection System Operator

Wastewater Operator Certification Regulations:

- [401 KAR 11:001](#)—Definitions for 401 KAR Chapter 11
- [401 KAR 11:010](#)—Boards of Certification
- [401 KAR 11:020](#)—Standards of professional conduct for certified operators
- [401 KAR 11:030](#)—Wastewater treatment and collection system operators; classification and qualifications
- [401 KAR 11:050](#)—Operator certification
- [401 KAR 11:060](#)—Certification fees

Certification fees are non-refundable. Please make sure that you meet the minimum education and experience requirements prior to submitting an application to the certification program.

Additional information regarding the operator certification program may be obtained by visiting the program's Web site at dca.ky.gov/certification.

You may also contact the Certification and Licensing Program at 502-564-0323 or 800-926-8111.



Program Overview

The Wastewater Treatment and Collection System Operator Certification Program, administered by the Division of Compliance Assistance, is required by regulation. Certification is obtained by meeting minimum education and experience requirements, submitting the appropriate forms and fee, and by passing the certification examination.

There are multiple levels of wastewater treatment and collection system operator certifications. In order to qualify to take a Kentucky Wastewater Operator Certification examination, an applicant must meet the experience and education requirements appropriate for that particular certification level.



Regulations Pertaining to Operator Certification

Regulations pertaining to the certification of wastewater treatment and collection system operators are located in [401 KAR Chapter 11](#).



Who Must Comply

KRS 224.73-110 requires that a person shall not have primary responsibility for the operation of a sewage system or a portion of a system, whether publicly or privately owned, unless the operator has passed an examination prescribed by the cabinet. [401 KAR 5:010](#) requires wastewater treatment plants and collection systems that accept domestic sewage to be under the primary responsibility of an appropriately certified operator.



Requirements

The requirements for each wastewater treatment and collection system certification level are located in [401 KAR 11:030](#). The tables listed on page two are intended to be a supplement to the regulation.



Procedures for Applying for Certification

[401 KAR 11:050](#) establishes application and examination procedures for becoming certified. Applicants must submit an [Education and Experience Documentation Form](#) as well as a [Registration Form for Exams and Training](#). The examination fee of \$100 must be submitted with the forms. Applicants may choose to attend the certification preparatory training prior to the examination. The fee for the preparatory training must be submitted with the forms and examination fee. The fees are listed on the bottom of the Registration Form for Exams and Training. The schedule of training events and examination dates are located on the program's [Web site](#).

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How to Become a Certified Wastewater Treatment and/or Collection System Operator—Continued

Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification Requirements

Certification Level	Education	Experience
Limited (only available for operators working for a school wastewater treatment plant and collection system)	Minimal level of education is not required.	Minimal level of experience is not required.
Class I – OIT	High school diploma or GED is required.	Experience is not required.
Class I	High school diploma or GED is required.	One (1) year of acceptable operation of a wastewater treatment plant shall be required.
Class II	High school diploma or GED is required.	Two (2) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater treatment plant shall be required.
Class III	High school diploma or GED is required.	Three (3) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater treatment plant with one (1) year of that experience in a wastewater treatment plant with a design capacity greater than 50,000 gallons per day shall be required.
Class IV	Baccalaureate degree in engineering, science or equivalent is required.	At least five (5) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater treatment plant shall be required. Three (3) years of the required experience shall be in a wastewater treatment plant with a design capacity greater than two (2) million gallons per day. At least two (2) years of primary responsibility in a wastewater treatment plant with a design capacity greater than two (2) million gallons per day shall be required.

Wastewater Collection System Operator Certification Requirements

Certification Level	Education	Experience
Class I – OIT	High school diploma or GED is required.	Experience is not required.
Class I	High school diploma or GED is required.	One (1) year of acceptable operation of a wastewater collection system shall be required.
Class II	High school diploma or GED is required.	Two (2) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater collection system shall be required.
Class III	High school diploma or GED is required.	Three (3) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater collection system with one (1) year of that experience in a wastewater collection system that transports wastewater to a treatment plant with a design capacity of greater than 50,000 gallons per day shall be required.
Class IV	Baccalaureate degree in engineering, environmental technology; biological, physical or chemical sciences or equivalent is required.	At least five (5) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater collection system shall be required. Three (3) years of the required experience shall be in a wastewater collection system that transports wastewater to a treatment plant with a design capacity of greater than two (2) million gallons per day. At least two (2) years of primary responsibility in a wastewater collection system that transports wastewater to a treatment plant with a design capacity of greater than two (2) million gallons per day shall be required.

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